

Reduction in the Budget for women's programmes

***376. MISS MABEL REBELLO:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that budget for women's programmes has been cut over the past three years from Rs. 231 crores to Rs. 150 crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the schemes are not reaching those for whom they are meant and the money remains unspent; and

(c) what remedial steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir. The Budget for the Development of Women and Children has in fact gone up during the last 3 years as would be evident from the Statement enclosed. (*see below*) Lower financial provisions in the budget have been made for some of the programmes which deal exclusively with women in the light of utilization of funds under these programmes by NGOs through whom these are implemented.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government is constantly reviewing the programmes for further streamlining the procedures for sanction, implementation and monitoring in order to augment the overall flow of fund for the development of the women.

Statement***A. Schemes for the Development of women and Children :***

(Rupees in crores)

1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001
BE	EXP	BE	EXP.	BE	EXP.	BE
756.55	777.89	994.55	990.58	1164.53	1145.58	1269.40

B. Schemes Exclusively for Development of Women:

	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001
	BE	EXP	BE	EXP.	BE	EXP.	BE
	143.45	118.80	231.40	141.26	155.47	99.06	190.60
TOTAL	(A+B)900.00	896.69	1225.95	1131.84	1320.00	1244.64	1460.00

NOTE: Due to non-utilization of funds released to the Central Social Welfare Board and some of the State Governments during the previous years and accumulation of unspent balance with them, further release of fund during 1999-2000 was restricted.

Model Station in A.P.

***377. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:**

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of model stations being developed during this year;

(b) the number of railway stations in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) how many of these have been converted into model railway stations with modern facilities; and

(d) the details of facilities available on these stations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE):

(a) to (d) Of the total number of 6896 railway stations, in the country, 186 stations (which are mostly category 'A' stations) have so far been selected as model stations. All the 11 category 'A' stations falling within the State of Andhra Pradesh, have been selected as model stations. Andhra Pradesh has 602 railway stations of various categories together.

Various facilities like reservation/booking/enquiry counters, public address system, waiting hall, waiting rooms, retiring rooms, refreshment room, cloak room, foot over bridge, water coolers, lavatories, urinals, wheel chairs, etc. are mostly available at all the 11 stations. As regards upgradation of